

The Right Tool for the Right Job

We are seeing the construction industry become more and more sophisticated with new construction techniques. However, in residential construction, the same tools that were used fifty years ago are used today although with some improvements. One way to get injured on the job is using the wrong tool for the job. Two important points to remember when using hand tools is the selection of the tool for the job and the use of the tool for the job.

Guide for Discussion

Some key points to remember:

Misuse Resulting From:

- Ignorance.
- Poor attitudes.
- Production demands.

General Points:

- Keep your tools clean and in good condition.
- Chose the right tool for a specific job.
- Never use a tool not designed for the job you are doing.
- Never carry tools in your pockets.
- When chipping or cutting, wear eye protection.
- Be wary of the effect of your actions on other nearby workers.
- Use a pulling motion to operate hand tools rather than a pushing method.
- Never leave hand tools in areas where they may be kicked off onto lower levels or where they may be a tripping hazard.
- Never improvise.
- Don't adapt or use "cheaters."
- Never remove an electrical cord by jerking it; pull it away from power by the plug.
- Always be sure that power tools are electrically safe.

Additional Discussion Notes:

Remember: The use of hand tools effects the daily lives of all construction workers. As a result, it is necessary that everyone be aware of safe hand tool practices and follows those practices.

Attendees:

NOTE: Always promote a discussion on any of the topics covered in the Tool Box Talks. Should any question arise that you cannot answer, don't hesitate to contact your Employer.